

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BELIZE 00124 112342Z

65-62

ACTION USIE-00

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 ISO-00 BIB-01 PA-01 PRS-01 INR-07

INRE-00 SS-15 SSO-00 NSC-05 NSCE-00 FDRE-00 CIAE-00

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FM AMCONSUL BELIZE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4696

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE BELIZE 0124

FOR IBS

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SWEL GT BH

SUBJECT: PREMIER'S VIEWS ON VOA'S COVERAGE OF BELIZE

1. I HAVE JUST RECEIVED A TELEPHONE CALL FROM PREMIER GEORGE PRICE WHO I HAVE LEARNED FROM PAST EXPERIENCE IS A DEVOTED LISTENER TO THE BUENOS DIAS VOICE OF AMERICA PROGRAM.

2. THE PURPOSE OF THE PREMIER'S CALL WAS TO INQUIRE WHETHER IT WAS A FACT THAT THE POLICY GOVERNING THE CONTENT OF THE BUENOS DIAS VOA PROGRAM WAS TO PRETEND THAT BELIZE DID NOT EXIST. HE NOTED THAT IN ALL THE RECENT COVERAGE OF THE GUATEMALAN EARTHQUAKE AND SUBSEQUENT RELIEF EFFORTS THERE HAD BEEN NO REFERENCE AT ALL TO BELIZE DESPITE THE FACT THAT THE EARTHQUAKE WAS ALSO FELT HERE AND THE FACT THAT BELIZE HAS BEEN PARTICIPATING IN THE SUBSEQUENT RELIEF EFFORT.

3. I ASSURED THE PREMIER THAT THERE WAS NO SUCH POLICY AND THAT THE ABSENCE OF ANY COVERAGE OF BELIZE DURING THIS PERIOD WAS UNDOUBTEDLY DUE TO THE FACT THAT NO NEWSWORTHY EVENTS INVOLVING BELIZE HAD COME TO THE VOA'S ATTENTION. HOWEVER, I AGREED TO RELAY HIS INQUIRY TO THE OFFICIALS OF THE VOA.

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4. PREMIER PRICE IS IN MY OPINION UNDULY SENSITIVE TO THE SMALL
ROLE HIS COUNTRY PLAYS IN THE NEWSWORTHY EVENTS OF THE HEMISPHERE.
HOWEVER, SINCE HE HAS MADE THIS REPRESENTATION TO ME, IT WOULD BE
BENEFICIAL TO THE US POSITION HERE IF, WITHIN THE NEXT DAY OR TWO,
SOME COVERAGE OF BELIZE COULD BE INCLUDED IN THE BUENOS DIAS
PROGRAM. THE FOLLOWING MAY PROVIDE THE NECESSARY MATERIAL FOR
SUCH A REFERENCE: "BELIZE ASSISTS IN EARTHQUAKE RELIEF EFFORT.
ALTHOUGH THERE EXISTS A SERIOUS TERRITORIAL DISPUTE BETWEEN
BELIZE AND GUATEMALA, THE GOVERNMENT OF BELIZE HAS ESTABLISHED
A FUND FOR THE RELIEF OF EARTHQUAKE VICTIMS TO WHICH BELIZEANS
ARE CONTRIBUTING GENEROUSLY. ALSO THERE HAVE BEEN MONEY AND
SUPPLIES SENT TO THE VICTIMS OF THE EARTHQUAKE BY LIONS CLUB AND
OTHER GROUPS IN BELIZE WHICH HAVE BEEN CHanneled THROUGH THE
GUATEMALAN CONSULATE GENERAL HERE."
GAWF

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DISASTER RELIEF, RADIO BROADCASTING, GOVERNMENT REACTIONS, EARTHQUAKES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 11 FEB 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: morefirh
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760052-0783
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Margaret P. Grafeld
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